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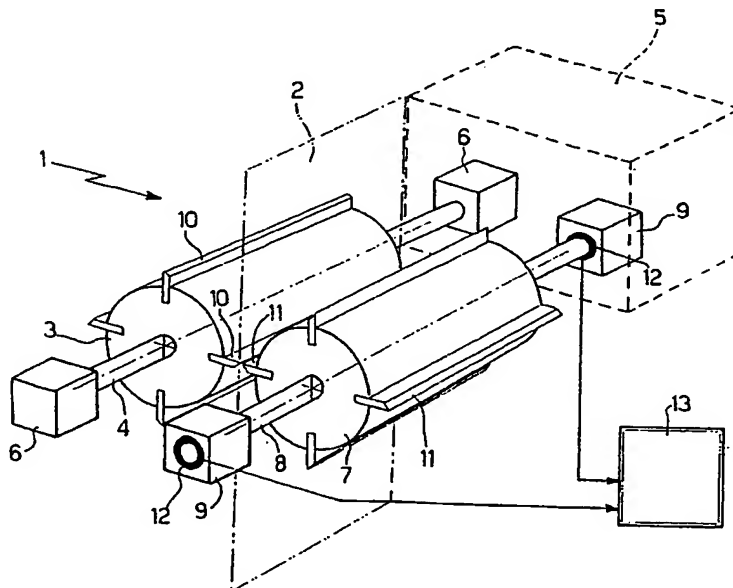
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(54) Title: **METHOD FOR PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE OF A CUTTING UNIT OF AN AUTOMATIC MACHINE**



(57) Abstract: A method for predictive maintenance of a cutting unit (1) of an automatic machine; the method determining, with a given frequency, the value (V) of a characteristic quantity of the cutting unit (1) related to contact between a cutting member (10) and a counter-member (11); determining a curve (14) for extrapolating the time pattern of the characteristic quantity value (V); and programming maintenance work on the cutting unit (1) when the curve (14) is outside a given acceptance range.